

Contemporary Satires: Criticism of Society through Laughter

Boyle, T. Coraghessan. "Top of the Food Chain."

Dr. Suess. *The Butter Battle Book*. New York: Random House, 1984.

"Fall Cancelled After 3 Billion Seasons." *The Onion*. 7 Nov. 2007.

Luckovich, Mike. "Brad and Angelina" cartoon. *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. 12 Jan. 2006.

Mouse, Anon E. "Cats: That Other White Meat." *Houston Press*. 3 Feb. 2005.

1. What is the **purpose** of the satire? What social ill is the author attempting to reform?
2. **Verbal irony** allows an author to distinguish his or her own attitudes from those of the fictional speaker. In “A Modest Proposal,” the speaker is earnest and straightforward while Swift is bitter and sarcastic. How do attitudes of the speakers and authors contrast in each satire?
3. What precise adjectives describe the **tone** of the satire? What specific textual detail leads you to this interpretation?

4. Effective satire employs **hyperbole**, **understatement**, and **irony** to emphasize the need for social reform. What examples of these literary devices do you find in the modern satires?
5. How do these contemporary satires carry on the traditions established during the Neoclassical period?
6. What is the **theme** of each satire? Remember to follow the structure that first identifies the subject matter and then states an opinion.

The _____ by _____ is about
(genre) (title) (author)
_____ and reveals that _____.
(subject/abstract concept) (complete statement)

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